

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-17 and 29-35, and amend claims 6, 12 and 18 as follows:

Claims 1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The A process of claim 3, wherein for reflecting a state of a software container having objects, comprising:

cyclically displaying a series of frames reflecting a state of the container as an animated sequence;

detecting an event reflecting a change in the state of the container, wherein the container implements a discussion forum;

determining, based on the detected event, whether an animated sequence does not reflect the state of the container;

and updating the cyclical display based on the determination,  
wherein the cyclical display reflects the numbers and types of the objects, and  
the cyclical display uses color variations, tempo, motion, and change in size to  
reflect the number or type of the objects in the container.

Claims 7-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The A computer system of claim 9, wherein comprising:~~

a memory including a software container and an animated indicator program, the animated indicator program including computer code for:

monitoring the software container to detect an event reflecting a change in a state of the container, wherein the container implements a discussion forum;

determining, based on the detected event, whether an animated sequence does not reflect the state of the container; and

generating a series of frames to reflect a state of the container based on the determination;

a display on which a series of frames is cyclically displayed in an animated sequence; and

a processor configured to execute programs in the memory,  
wherein the cyclical display reflects the number and type of objects of the  
container, and

the animated indicator program further includes computer code for using color variations, tempo, change in size, and motion to reflect the number or type of the objects in the container.

Claims 13-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium of claim 15, containing  
instructions executable on a computer, the instructions when executed on the computer  
performing the steps of:

cyclically displaying a series of frames in an animated sequence such that the  
animated sequence reflects a state of a software container;  
detecting an event reflecting a change in the state of the container, wherein the  
container implements a discussion forum;  
determining, based on the detected event, whether an animated sequence does  
not reflect the state of the container; and  
updating the cyclical display based on the determination,  
wherein the instructions for the cyclical display cause the cyclical display to  
reflect the number and type of objects of the container, and  
further including instructions for using one of color variations, tempo, motion, and  
change in size to represent the degree of the change in the state of the container.

Claims 19-35. (Canceled)